

REMARKS

The claims as set forth above incorporate the amendments made to claims 1, 15, 16, 17 and 26, and the cancellation of claims 7, 9, 13 and 52 as set forth in the Examiner's Amendment mailed with the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due dated November 4, 2005.

The Applicants propose certain additional amendments to claims 1 and 15 as presented above in marked-up form. It is suggested that these claim amendments should be entered under the provisions of Section 312 since they do not affect the merit or scope of the claims, but merely better describe the invention in appropriate claim language.

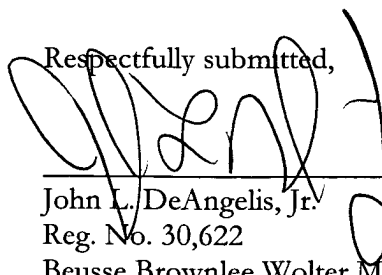
The proposed amendment to claim 1 should be entered as it merely substitutes preferred process claim language ("for removing") for the existing claim language. The proposal further preferably refers back to the exposed material layer from the third paragraph of the claim, rather than the correct, but somewhat awkward language referring to the "not removed" material as suggested by Examiner Abraham. The "laterally disposed" language is retained relative to any material remaining after the etching step.

The proposed amendments to claim 15 are similar to the proposed amendments to claim 1 and thus the rationale for entering the claim 1 amendments also applies to claim 15. Also, "sacrificial" has been substituted for "material" in line 12 of the claim to provide a proper antecedent basis.

The Applicants have also cancelled structure claims 36-51 as it appears they presently are in a withdrawn status and should be cancelled before the case can pass to issue.

If a telephone conference will assist in clarifying or expediting this proposed Amendment, Examiner Abraham is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I HEREBY CERTIFY that this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 312 is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 6th day of February, 2006.



Pamela A. Pagel